

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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P 121810Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4596

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FOR EB/IFD/ODF REIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECIN, SP
SUBJECT: NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND SPAIN

REF: STATE 117858; MADRID 4589

1. CHAVARRI WILL PICK UP CONSULTATION SCHEDULE FROM
SPANISH EMBASSY WHEN HE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY,
MAY 16.

2. TOPICS SUGGESTED IN REF A ARE FINE WITH CHAVARRI.
SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TRADE
AND ENERGY MATTERS AND WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFINGS ON U.S.
STRATEGY FOR FUTURE NORTH/SOUTH DISCUSSIONS ON THESE
ISSUES. CHAVARRI WOULD ALSO LIKE A BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON
NORTH/SOUTH MATTERS WE INTEND TO DISCUSS AT THE FORTH-
COMING BONN SUMMIT.

3. EMBASSY HAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS RAISED THE
GENERAL SUBJECT OF COMMODITIES AND THE COMMON FUND WITH
SPANISH OFFICIALS. THEY ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH US
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ON THE ISSUES OF A "SECOND WINDOW" AND DIRECT CONTRIBU-
TIONS BUT VOTED FOR THE G-77 RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA. SOME
ENCOURAGEMENT TO STICK WITH THE GROUP A POSITION WOULD
SEEM TO BE IN ORDER.

4. SPAIN CONSIDERS THAT WHILE IT IS AN INDUSTRIAL POWER,
IT STILL SHARES MANY OF THE LDCS' ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND

THUS LOOKS TO ITSELF AS SOMEWHAT OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OECD INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND THE LDCS. SPANISH OFFICIALS ALSO CITE THEIR HISTORICAL TIES TO LATIN AMERICA, AND IN FACT HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS LATELY IN BROADENING COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. THEY ALSO SPEAK OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP (THROUGH HISTORICAL TIES) WITH THE ARAB WORLD, ALTHOUGH ONE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK HARD TO FIND ANY TANGIBLE BENEFITS THAT HAVE ACCRUED TO SPAIN FROM THIS POSTURE, AT LEAST AS REGARDS LOWER OIL PRICES. THE GOS IS CURRENTLY WAGING A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AMONG THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AS A RESULT OF AN OAU ACTION IN MID-MARCH EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A CANARY ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE GROUP.

5. SPAIN HAS TRIED TO KEEP A FOOT IN BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND LDC CAMPS. IT IS LOATHE TO GIVE UP ANY OF THE SPECIAL TREATMENT ON TRADE MATTERS THT LDCS ENJOY, AND AT THE SAME TIME WANTS TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT MAJOR ECONOMIC QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN THE OECD FORUM. THIS "SPLIT PERSONALITY" IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, AND SPAIN WILL BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE LEADING POSITIONS ON ANY NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE ITS "BEST OF BOTH WORLDS" POSITION. THE GOS HAS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO BE COOPERATIVE WHERE IT CAN AND TO ACT AS A MODERATING GO-BETWEEN ON ISSUES WHERE THE TWO SIDES ARE NOT DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED.

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Message Attributes

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